



# *The Old Ironsides Report*



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## Hillsdale dispensary opens for internally displaced persons in Baghdad

Story and photo by Spc. Ryan Smith, 372nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq - People living in any community need medicine and medical treatment, but, for thousands of Iraqis living in Baghdad, medical care is unavailable, often because the people have no transportation or means to pay for treatment.

This problem is especially prevalent among internally displaced persons—people who have lost their homes because of the war, for political reasons, or most often because they simply cannot afford to pay rent.

Along with providing displaced Iraqis a place to live, U.S. Army civil affairs soldiers, working with the 1st Armored Division's Government Support Team, helped to open a medical dispensary at Hillsdale, a camp for internally displaced persons in east Baghdad last week.

Dr. Ahmed al-Heety, director of the United Iraqi Medical Society (UIMS), and Brig. Gen. Mark Hertling, assistant division commander (support), 1st Armored Division, celebrated the opening of the dispensary with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Humanitarian rations, shoes and clothes were passed out to the residents after the ceremony.

The UIMS and the U.S. Army opened the dispensary at Hillsdale to give the residents a local source for treatment of minor illnesses and injuries, as well as for diagnosis and referral for more serious problems, said Maj. Scott Caldwell, deputy civil affairs officer for the 1st Armored Division.

"Essentially, the clinic will operate like sick call in the Army," Caldwell said. "People can come see the doctor when he's there, and get medicines. If they need further treatment, they can be taken to the hospital."

Not only will the residents of Hillsdale have local health care, but treatment at the dispensary will also be free.

"Most of these people can't afford medical care," Caldwell said.

The bill for getting the clinic up and running was \$5,000. The money comes from a discretionary fund set aside for humanitarian aid and reconstruction projects.

"It's just a drop in the bucket compared to the funds we have set aside for projects like this," Caldwell said.

It's an especially important drop, however, for the 800 people who live at Hillsdale.

U.S. Army civil affairs soldiers and the Iraqi police have assisted in moving many of the people living there now to the site. Most were living in government buildings, such as police and fire stations that are now needed by the new government.

Soldiers from the 411th Civil Affairs Battalion, an



**Residents of Hillsdale watch American soldiers as they arrived at the site for a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Hillsdale dispensary. Hillsdale is a camp for internally displaced persons in Baghdad.**

Army Reserve unit from Danbury, Conn., have spent a great deal of time working with the people living at Hillsdale to make living conditions at the former Iraqi military site more satisfactory.

Several of the buildings there have been renovated to accommodate the residents, said Spc. Frank O'Farrell, civil affairs specialist, 411th Civil Affairs Battalion.

O'Farrell has overseen much of the work that has been accomplished at Hillsdale.

He and Caldwell are also working on other projects to improve the quality of life for the people there.

Potable water is brought to Hillsdale several times a week, but the residents would benefit greatly from more water tanks and a pipeline to pump fresh water in, O'Farrell said.

He is also working on building an irrigation system to transform the dirt lot in the center of the compound into an agricultural project, building a bakery, and building a chicken farm—all would provide a source of food and even income for the people living there.

O'Farrell is most excited, however, by the prospect of building a school for the nearly 200 children living at Hillsdale.

But for now, the Hillsdale dispensary is a big step for the community. It gives the people access to medical care that they did not have before, and because it is operated by the UIMS, it's a significant step in returning public health to Iraqi control.

## NEWS

### Poverty Rate Rises for Second Year in Row

WASHINGTON (AP) - Poverty rose and income levels declined in 2002 for the second straight year as the nation's economy continued struggling after the first recession in a decade, the Census Bureau reported Friday. The poverty rate was 12.1 percent last year, up from 11.7 percent in 2001. Nearly 34.6 million people lived in poverty, about 1.7 million more than the previous year.

### Bush to Sign Do-Not-Call Legislation

WASHINGTON (AP) - A fight between Congress and the courts over a national "do-not-call" list is mired in legal limbo with consumers wondering whether promised relief from telemarketers will happen. President Bush said he planned to sign that bill on Monday. Supporters of the free government service had barely begun to celebrate an overwhelming vote Thursday in Congress to counter a federal court ruling when they learned that another judge had blocked the list from taking effect next week.

### 'Paper Lion' Author George Plimpton Dies

NEW YORK (AP) - George Plimpton, the gentleman editor, literary patron and "participatory journalist" whose fumbling exploits included boxing, trapeze-flying and, most famously, quarterbacking for the Detroit Lions, has died at 76. Plimpton died Thursday night at his New York apartment, his longtime friend restaurateur Elaine Kaufman said Friday. She had no information on the cause.

### Chaplain's Thought for the Day: Our Refuge in the Storm

You have been . . . a refuge from the storm. --Isaiah 25:4

The best correspondents for Life magazine were sent all over the world to ask the question, "What is the meaning of life?" They talked to philosophers and children, taxi drivers and Nile River boatmen. More than 100 premier photographers provided images.

One dramatic photograph of a lighthouse off the Brittany Coast showed a huge Atlantic storm with gigantic waves around the mammoth brick structure, nearly swallowing it up. But on the sheltered side, literally surrounded by frothing, boiling waves, stood the lighthouse keeper. He was looking casually toward shore, his hands stuck nonchalantly in his pockets, as enormous waves crashed around him.

This powerful illustration reminded us of the many fierce storms of trial we face in life. The words of Isaiah 25:4 are true for every believer: God is our refuge during the storms of physical affliction, emotional turmoil, and spiritual attack. With His protection we can endure any trial with the calm assurance that He who shields us cannot be moved.

And that gives us peace no matter how turbulent our circumstances.

## ENTERTAINMENT

### Rock Singer Robert Palmer Dies at Age 54

By ROBERT BARR Associated Press Writer

LONDON (AP) -- Rock singer Robert Palmer, known for his sharp suits and hits including "Addicted to Love," died Friday in Paris of a heart attack, his manager said. He was 54.

Palmer was on a two-day break in Paris following a television recording session in Britain, his manager Mick Carter said from the French capital.

In the 1980s, Palmer became a superstar with singles which also included "Simply Irresistible" - accompanied by slick videos featuring the smartly dressed Palmer with a back-up band of attractive women, all in black outfits and glossy makeup.

A side project, Power Station, formed in 1985 with John Taylor and Andy Taylor of '80s supergroup Duran Duran, scored three U.S. Top 10 hits, including "Communication" and "Get it On."

The son of a British naval officer, Palmer was a member of several British rock bands before he hit the big time as a solo artist.

He had lived in Switzerland for the past 16 years.

Known for his GQ sense of style, Palmer was named best dressed male artist by Rolling Stone in 1990.

The "Addicted to Love" video, with its miniskirted models strumming guitars as Palmer sang, became one of MTV's most-played clips, and sparked protests from some feminists.

"I'm not going to attach inappropriate significance to it because at the time it meant nothing. It's just happened to become an iconic look," Palmer once said of the video.

He had his first hit album and single, "Sneakin' Sally through the Alley," in 1974.

In his 20s, Palmer worked with a number of small-time bands including Dada, Vinegar Joe, and the Alan Bown Band. He occasionally appeared in opening acts for big draws, including The Who and Jimi Hendrix.

Palmer once confessed that he was not attracted to the excesses of rock 'n' roll stardom.

"I loved the music, but the excesses of rock 'n' roll never really appealed to me at all," he said. "I couldn't see the point of getting up in front of a lot of people when you weren't in control of your wits."

He was noted for dressing up and being somewhat restrained.

"I don't want to be heavy," he said in an interview with Rolling Stone magazine. "I can't think of another attitude to have toward an audience than a hopeful and a positive one. And if that includes such unfashionable things as sentimentality, well, I can afford it."

### TODAY'S SAFETY TIP: Senior occupants...

- ✓ Are responsible (and accountable) for the safe operation of the vehicle.
- ✓ Must replace drivers who appear fatigued.
- ✓ Will ensure that all occupants use available restraint systems.
- ✓ Should assist the driver in recognizing unsafe conditions/situations.
- ✓ Are required to ensure drivers maintain proper speeds.
- ✓ Must always enforce FORCE PROTECTION standards during combat zone operations.

**On This Day In History: September 27, 1957**

**CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL INTEGRATED:**

Under escort from the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division, nine black students enter all-white Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Three weeks earlier, Arkansas Governor Orval Faubus had surrounded the school with National Guard troops to prevent its federal court-ordered racial integration.

After a tense standoff, President Dwight D. Eisenhower federalized the Arkansas National Guard and sent 1,000 army paratroopers to Little Rock to enforce the court order.

source: [historychannel.com](http://historychannel.com)